

Appl. No. 09/914,494
Atty. Docket No. CM2057M
Amdt. dated 8/10/2004
Reply to Office Action of 9/25/03
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 17-21 and 23-30 are now in the case. Claim 17 has been amended to further clarify the invention. See, e.g., Specification, page 9, lines 13-15. It is submitted that these amendments add no new matter, and entry is requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 102

Claim 17 stands rejected over U.S. 4,678,593, for reasons of record at page 2 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection on this basis.

The '593 patent relates to toilet bar compositions that contain a smectite-type clay. Examples I-VI disclose EDTA weight percentages at 0.1, 0.2, and 0.3.

The present invention, as amended discloses percentages of a heavy metal ion sequestrant from 0.5% to 5% by weight of the tablet. Ridley does not disclose or even suggest such percentages of a heavy metal ion sequestrant. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under §102 are therefore requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 17-20 and 22-32 stand rejected over EP 0,846,756, for reasons of record at pages 3 of the Office Action.

Claim 21 stands rejected over EP '756, further in view of U.S. 6,007,735, for reasons of record at pages 3 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections under §103.

EP '756 relates to coated detergent tablets which can contain perfume (p. 3, l. 24-25). It is submitted that nothing therein relates to the problem of clay/perfume interaction, much less suggests that Schiff bases are the source of the problem. Further, there is no disclosure or suggestion of the presence of a heavy metal ion sequestrant from 0.5% to 5% by weight of the tablet. Accordingly, nothing in EP '756 in any way teaches or suggests the present invention, in the sense of §103. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection on this basis are requested.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 21, the above comments pertaining to EP '756 apply equally.

It is respectfully submitted that U.S. '735 adds nothing to EP '756, with respect to the present invention. U.S. '735 relates to coated bleach tablets. The coatings can comprise clays (Col. 5, l. 2

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and Example 3). However nothing therein evidences any suggestion that the clay-coated tablets should be employed with perfumes whose components exclude Schiff bases.

In short, it is submitted that neither EP '756, nor U.S. '735, nor the combination thereof, teaches or suggests either the problem discovered by Applicants herein, much less its solution. Withdrawal of all rejections under § 103 is therefore requested.

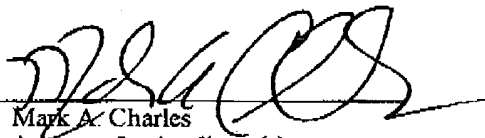
Double Patenting

In order to expedite prosecution of the above referenced application, Applicants hereby submit a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321.

In light of the amendments and arguments presented herein, early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Arnau et al.

By


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